

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON BILL NO. **S.297**

(Doc. No. 11152ac07.doc)

TO:	The Honorable Harvey S. Peeler, Chairman, Senate Medical Affairs Committee		
FROM:	Office of State Budget, Budget and Control Board		
ANALYSTS:	Earle Powell, R.J. Stein, and Allan Kincaid		
DATE:	January 16, 2008	SBD:	2008032

AUTHOR:	Senator Peeler	PRIMARY CODE CITE:	44-61-700
SUBJECT:	EMT Criminal Background Check		

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

\$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

BILL SUMMARY:

This Bill would amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by enacting the South Carolina Emergency Medical Services Employment Act. This Bill requires a person seeking employment as an EMT after June 30, 2007 to undergo a state and possibly a federal criminal records check prior to employment. The cost of the check must be paid by the EMT or the EMS agency. EMTs employed on July 1, 2007 would be exempt from records check unless and until they change EMT employment. Legislation also allows for exceptions during a state of emergency.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:

MUSC indicates this Bill would have little or no impact on expenditures. MUSC already requires a state criminal records check for EMT employment for an average of six applicants annually. The Bill also states that an EMS Agency may conduct a federal criminal records check, but does not require it. Section 44-61-720(A) indicates the cost of the background check may be paid by the EMT applicant. SLED indicates the cost of a criminal records check would be \$25 for the state and \$13.25 or \$30.25 for the federal pending whether the application is submitted electronically or by mail. The Department of Health & Environmental Control indicates that since the criminal records check fees are paid by the EMT or the EMS agency, there is no cost to the Department.

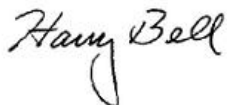
LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT:

Responses from local governments indicate enactment would have little or no impact on expenditures. Counties either already require a criminal records check or anticipate the number of new hires annually to be minimal.

SPECIAL NOTES:

None.

Approved by:



Harry Bell
Assistant Director, Office of State Budget